

# Partners on the Journey

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood Partners in Mission Newsletter

FALL 2022



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## Thank You, Carol!

Since accepting a seat on the Partners in Mission Governing Board in 2018, Carol Oldendorf has done an exceptional job chairing the Communications Committee and editing this Newsletter. With the end of Carol's three-year term on the Board also comes the end of her term as Communications chair.

I am so grateful to Carol for her dedication to this Newsletter these past three years. It has been a pleasure to work with her—Thank you, Carol!!

When the Board meets later this month, a new Communications chair will be selected.

—Audrey Jungermann

*Reconciliation—Deepening our Relationships with God, each other, and our suffering World.*

## Partner in Mission Assembly Day 2022

On Sunday, September 11, 2022, Partners in Mission and Sister Mentors gathered to reconnect with old and new friends and hear updates of future plans.

Keeping with tradition, the Governing Board announced our Direction Statement for the year:

*"In joyful gratitude and ignited with the fire of the Holy Spirit we go forth to spread the love of Christ in service and to be a reconciling presence to our community and to our divided world."*

We also welcomed new Partners Mary Beth Hunt and Debbie Vogelgesang, we elected two new Governing Board members, Dawn Boschert and Mary Buchanan, and thanked our two "retiring" members, Denis Wilhelm and Carol Oldendorf. Carol has agreed to complete the final year of an open Board seat, and Jeanne Palombo will remain to complete the final two years of an open seat. Thanks to Carol and Jeanne and the two newly elected members, the Board will be able to function fully staffed this year!

Partners also renewed their annual commitments during a beautiful Liturgy before relaxing over lunch in the tent outside. After lunch, the Sustainability Committee shared a reflection on this year's direction statement and offered more ways for Partners to come together. Read more about them on page four of this newsletter.

—Audrey Jungermann



Mary Beth Hunt & Debbie Vogelgesang

Sr. Lucy Meissen & Sue Buerkle

## A Very Busy Summer!

This Summer has flown by! It certainly was a very busy one for Partners in Mission. Inside this issue, you can read about what's been going on. A potluck picnic was held at Faust Park and St. Agatha's hosted their annual "Christmas in July" event, both of which gave Partners a chance to come together—how great it was to be able to do that again!

With Assembly Day behind us, a new "Partners' year" gets underway. Believe it or not, *Pathways* classes start already this month. Six candidates embark on their journey of exploration for Partners in Mission in October. Please keep each of them in your prayers.

Also, as this new year begins, you will hear more about combined gatherings for Small Faith Communities. This idea was presented at Assembly and planned in more detail at the Leaders' Workshop. You can read more about it on page four of this issue.

I hope your Summer has been great. I look forward to everything the upcoming Fall and Winter will bring for Partners in Mission, and I look forward to hearing your ideas of ways to make this a great year!

—Audrey Jungermann



## How Good it is to Gather!



The last Saturday in July, an absolutely gorgeous day to begin with, was made all the better when good friends gathered for a picnic in the park!

On July 30, the Partners in Mission Sustainability Committee hosted its first social gathering for Partners and Sister Mentors. We came together around noon for a delicious meal and lively fellowship in the beautiful setting of Faust Park in Chesterfield.

Carol Oldendorf, Patti Belmont, and Dawn Boschert from the Committee were on hand to set up for the picnic and make sure everything went smoothly. As soon as Partners and Sisters began to arrive, even more hands pitched in to arrange a feast of fried chicken, salads, and every imaginable side dish and dessert.

Partners and Sisters who had not been together in a very long time got to reconnect and catch up with one another. It was a wonderful time. We hope to have more days like this in the future and that even more people will be able to come and enjoy them.

For the benefit of those who weren't at the picnic,—or who were, for that matter—here's Mary Reynolds' baked beans recipe. (Anyone who was at the picnic and tried these can vouch for them!) Mary first made this dish for her grandson Dean Luis's Baptism, and they are now a family tradition!

### Mary Reynolds' "Beans Luis":

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| ½ lb bacon         | ½ lb ground beef                                  |
| 1 onion, diced     | ¼ cup white sugar                                 |
| ¼ cup brown sugar  | ¼ cup ketchup                                     |
| ¼ cup+ BBQ sauce   | 2 Tbl mustard                                     |
| 2 Tbl molasses     | 2 tsp chili powder                                |
| ½ tsp black pepper | 2-16 oz cans pork & beans                         |
|                    | 2-16 oz cans large butter beans, drained & rinsed |
|                    | 1-16 oz can red kidney beans, drained & rinsed    |

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.  
Cook bacon till crisp. Cook ground beef with onion till done, drain grease. Combine white and brown sugar, ketchup, BBQ sauce, mustard, molasses, chili powder and black pepper in a bowl. Whisk to a smooth sauce. Combine ground beef & onion, crumbled bacon, rinsed kidney & butter beans, pork & beans and sauce in a casserole dish. Mix thoroughly. Stir in additional BBQ sauce, which will thicken while cooking.  
Bake uncovered for an hour or until sauce thickens. Serve slightly warm. Refrigerate leftovers.

Partners in Mission enjoy Picnic in the Park 2022

## Christmas in July

Christmas came early this year to residents in the South City area of St. Louis! On Monday, July 25, the Sisters and Partners of *Disciples in Action* Small Faith Community, with the help of many volunteers, hosted a "Christmas in July" giveaway at St. Agatha's convent and school.

No one knew for sure how many people would register for or come to the event, since no food was being distributed. (The Guardian Angels organization now manages a food pantry for clients in the area.) At the end of the day, however, 52 individuals were supplied with personal hy-

giene products, which are not usually available from food pantries. In addition to those who attended in person, several homebound clients were also helped.

Seeing the success of July's event, and recognizing an ongoing need in the area, *Disciples in Action* are planning a similar giveaway at St. Agatha's around Christmas.

Volunteers and donations of personal hygiene items are needed and will be most welcome. More details will be shared as we get closer to Christmas.

Let's all help the *Disciples* spread the word to make the event at Christmas just as successful as the one in July!

Thank you!

-Audrey Jungermann



Left: Sr. Joan Klaas and new Partner Debbie Vogelgesang (seated at table) check in clients, Partners Colleen Curran-Schulte (left) and Jill Berry (right) help organize and distribute goods.

## Getting to Know: *Sr. Mary Harper*

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I was born in St. Louis on July 26, 1938. I had a wonderful mom and dad! We lived exactly across the street from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. I attended Perpetual Help School for eight years, and four years later, in 1956, I graduated from St. Elizabeth Academy.

I entered the convent of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood in the Summer of 1956, and made my first profession of vows in 1959.

I received a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1962 from Fontbonne College in St. Louis and did additional coursework in administration at Webster College.

Then began my career in education:

I taught and was principal at St. Stephan Protomartyr School from 1962 to 1973. I went on to be principal at St. Paul School in Fenton in 1973-1974. I taught at Sacred Heart School in Florissant in 1974-1975, and then became principal at Assumption School from 1975 to 1977. In 1977 I assumed the role of principal at St. George School until

1979, and then was principal at St. Sabina School in Florissant in 1979-1980.

For three years, from 1980 to 1983, I was principal at St. Monica School in Creve Coeur. I was then appointed to teach at Assumption School in O'Fallon from 1983 to 1991.

In 1991 and 1992 I was Local Coordinator in care of our senior sisters on the third floor, and in 1992 I was site manager at St. Elizabeth Adult Day Care in Maplewood. In 1993, I was asked by Sr. Andree Fries to again be coordinator for our senior sisters on the third floor. I truly enjoyed caring for the sisters' needs.

From 2002 to 2009 I was local coordinator for the retired Mercy Sisters, and I continued caring for the needs of the Mercy Community up until 2009. At that time, I began my journey helping the poor and needy through Saints Joachim & Ann Care Center.

I am deeply grateful to God and the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood for this incredible journey of 60 years!!!

-Sr. Mary Harper

## Meet Partner in Mission *BJ Ellison*

It is quite an honor and extremely humbling to be asked to write about myself for the Fall Newsletter. I was born at home on a farm in Lewis County, close to Canton, Missouri. I am the oldest of three children, having two younger brothers. My brother just younger than me introduced me to my husband, Mike. We were married for 48 years before his death in 2010. We have three children, Mark, Joe and Kathy, and are the proud grandparents of eight grandsons and two great-grandchildren.

I am very active in my parish, chairing the funeral luncheon ministry, money counters, and the prayer chain. I am a lector and homebound Eucharistic minister, make and take sandwiches for the poor, am a member of the ACTS community, and work at the picnic, Blue Mass, and special receptions. Last year I was nominated as *Catholic Woman of the Year*, sponsored by St. Joseph Radio. I believe that the spirit of community is volunteerism. If you are not now a volunteer, become one!

My first introduction to the Precious Blood family was when my cousin, Sr. Mary Alleen Wiskirchen became a nun. Later, a closer association was with Sr. Rose Marie Dobelman when she formed a book club for maturing adults at my parish of All Saints in St. Peters. This group of women

soon became an extremely close-knit group, studying together, praying together, and playing together. We were invited to become Partners in Mission in 2017 because we were already established as a "small faith community." Sr. Rose thought we should be called "Saints in the Making"! We all agreed: the name was perfect!



Our chosen outreach is St. Anthony's Food Pantry with Sr. Marie Orf. We provide personal hygiene products every other month and adopt a family for Christmas from which we receive the loveliest responses!

My experience with Partners in Mission is very closely associated with Sr. Rose. She was my mentor, my friend, and my teacher. I carry her in my heart always. Our Small Faith Community is a group of women working together to be in cohesive connectedness with each other and the Holy Spirit. We feel so blessed to be "in connection" with the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of Christ.

-BJ Ellison

# What's New from the Sustainability Committee?

## Partners in Mission Days of Service

At the September 11th Assembly Day, the Governing Board's Sustainability Committee announced new opportunities for Partners to live out their mission of service to others.

The first of two "Days of Service" will be held at St. Anthony's Food Pantry on October 12, 2022. Partners are encouraged to join Sr. Marie Orf at this long-time ministry committed to ending hunger in South St. Louis City.

Volunteers may come to the church basement of 3130 Meramec Street, 63118, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. (The entrance is at the back end of the parking lot.)

The second Day of Service will take place on Saturday, November 19th at Saints Joachim & Ann Care Center, 4116 McClay Road in St. Charles, 63304.

Volunteers will assist Scouts with sorting donations from their "Scouting for Food" drive and preparing them for distribution. The start time for this project is 10:00 a.m. and volunteers are welcome to stay as long as they like. The Scout's annual food drive traditionally receives an enormous amount of donations and our help will be most welcome.

The Committee hopes that all Part-



ners will be able to take advantage of at least one of these options—either in St. Louis City during the week, or in St. Charles County on a Saturday. If you would like to participate in either event, please contact me.

Thank you!

-Audrey Jungermann

## Better Together - Combined SFC Gatherings

Small Faith Communities are, without a doubt, one of Partners in Mission's greatest strengths. Close bonds form over time, trust is built, faith is shared, and relationships deepen. Those relationships are, for many, an important part of being a Partner.

Imagine expanding those relationships to include other Partners in other Small Faith Communities, getting to know them, learning how you are alike and how you are different. We share a common mission, but we all have our own styles and we conduct monthly gatherings in ways unique to our communities.

The members of the Sustainability Committee feel that we have much to share with one another. And so, this year, we are introducing the

concept of combined gatherings for Small Faith Communities. In two months, November and February, you will have the chance to pair up with one or two other Small Faith Communities to meet other Partners and Sisters and experience what their gatherings are like.

When this is discussed within your Small Faith Community, we hope that you will keep your mind and heart open to what is possible.

Having a combined gathering will be a new experience for many of us. We hope you will embrace it as an opportunity to learn from one another and become true partners in this mission we share. Thank you!

-Audrey Jungermann

### CPPS Partners in Mission

*Partners in Mission strive to bring Christ's reconciling presence to those we encounter in our daily lives. We seek to carry on the legacy of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood by deepening our relationship with God, each other, and the Community to heal our suffering world.*

#### GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

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